

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

In an Office Action entered June 7, 2007, the Examiner has stated that claims 31-38 are allowed over the prior art of record. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review and subsequent allowance of these claims.

The Examiner has further stated that claims 11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added new claims 39 and 40, placing claims 11 and 15 in independent form, respectively.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-30 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the claims as they stood prior to amendment are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution and allowance of the remaining claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these prior and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Curcio', written over a horizontal line.

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